certain incentives and are treated as key official for the purpose of providing special facilities.

STATEMENT

Recommendations made by the workshop of CVOs held on 27-29 September, 1994 in New Delhi.

1. There is need to revitalise the vigilance work in the PSUs.

2. The vigilance units/cells in PSUs need to be strengthened with sufficient number of sections/staff.

3. More administrative and financial powers be given to the CVOs. A cadre for the vigilance personnel needs to be created in different PSUs and an allowance of 15 per cent of basic pay be given to vigilance personnel.

4. The status of CVOs of the level of Joint Secretary in Schedule 'A' & 'D' companies be enhanced to the level of functional director in the PSUs.

5. More incentive be given to the CVOs.

Increase in prices and short supply of news print

1584. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been a steep increase in the prices of newsprint and paper and its shortage in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a situation and to what extent it has affected the consumers;

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure the normal availability of newsprint and paper at reasonable prices; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to decontrol the newsprint and if so, what is the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) There has recently been increase in the prices of newsprint and paper due to increase in the cost of inputs like power, imported pulp, chemicals and other raw materials. Shortage of newsprint is met through import. Regarding paper, it has been reported that there is no slackness in production of paper. The reasons for shortage of paper is due to diversion of some small quantity of paper to newsprint sector and export to neighbouring countries.

(c) There is no statutory control over the prices of newsprint and paper. Every revision in the price of indigenous newsprint referred to BICP for ex-post facto study vis-a-vis escalations in input costs. Government have taken the following steps to increase the indigenous availability of newsprint:—

(i) A capacity of 6.50 lakh tonnes by way of industrial licence/letters of intent has been sanctioned.

(ii) Under the new Industrial Policy Newsprint units based on minimum 75 percent pulp derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory industrial licensing subject to locational policy.

(iii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished.

(iv) Newsprint is exempted from excise duty.

(v) Such paper mills who are producing paper conforming to BIS standards for newsprint, and if

their paper is being used by newspapers and its quality is found satisfactory by them, are being considered by Government for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962, declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint. Similarly for paper industry fresh capacity is being permitted. LOIs and IEMs for a capacity of 59.90 lakh tonnes have been filed upto 31.1.95 for various varieties of Paper & Paper Board.

(d) The Newsprint Import Policy is reviewed by the Government from time to time and suitable amendments are considered as and when necessary.

Reference of Toshiba Anand to BIFR

1585. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the case of Toshiba Anand Company was referred to BIFR;

(b) how many sittings have since taken place alongwith the dates of each sittings;

(c) how many employees were on the roll when it was referred to BIFR;

(d) what was the reserve price fixed for the company by BIFR;

(e) what were its assets and liabilities;

(f) what was its capacity of production of dry cells and other items;

(g) whether any proposal was placed before BIFR by trade unions to take over and run it as workers co-operative, if so, the details of the project and the reaction of BIFR towards it;

(h) whether the State Government supported the proposal and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(i) what other steps are being considered to revive the sick company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth in industrial production

1586. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of industrial production in the country since 1990-91;

(b) whether this rate is higher or lower than the rate of industrial growth during the 1980s; and

(c) the factors underlying such an increase or a decrease in the rate of growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) As per the quick index of industrial production the rate of growth of industrial production since 1990-91 has been as follows:

Year	Rate of Growth
1990-91	8.3%
1991-92	0.6%
1992-93	2.3%
1993-94	4.4%
1994-95 (April—November)	8.7%

(b) The rate of growth of industrial production during the 1980s had averaged 7.8%.